Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 06 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Sunday 07 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Friday 05 Feb 2021 at 13:24

Confidence: High for becoming colder with snow at times, but lower with regard to cloud and snow amounts

Headline for Saturday 06 Feb 2021: Mostly cloudy, but some bright or sunny spells, but mainly in west. Also some showers, these wintry on the tops in morning and increasingly to lower levels in afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 06 Feb 2021

Blizzards Medium Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Low Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Low Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light snow	Light snow	Light snow	Fog	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
20%	60%	60%	40%	30%	50%	60%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 06 Feb 2021

Weather: Mostly cloudy overnight, with showery rain and hill top snow spreading in from southeast, but western fells may only see the odd shower. Some bright or sunny spells through the day, mainly in the west, but mostly cloudy with showers, these of snow above around 700m in morning but increasingly to lower levels in afternoon, with some heavy showers onto eastern fells. Blizzard conditions at times, especially in higher slopes.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50% in west, but 20% or less in east

Visibility: Periods of cloud down to 600m, more extensive in east where cloud 400m at times. Good visibility away from and beneath cloud, but falling to a few kilometres or less in showers and near nil in blizzards.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 06 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/32 E	26/33 E	26/33 E	30/38 E	32/42 E	36/47 E	38/51 E	39/53 E	36/50 E
600	18/25 E	18/26 E	17/26 E	21/30 E	23/33 E	26/38 E	26/38 E	30/43 E	27/40 E
300	8/21 E	8/22 E	7/21 E	11/27 E	12/30 E	12/31 E	15/36 E	19/42 E	17/38 E
Valley	10/23 NE	10/23 NE	11/23 NE	13/27 NE	15/31 NE	15/31 NE	17/35 NE	20/40 NE	18/36 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-0/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-2/-10	-2/-11	-3/-12	-4/-14	-5/-15	-5/-15
600	1/-4	1/-5	1/-5	0/-6	0/-7	-1/-8	-2/-10	-2/-11	-3/-11
300	3/0	3/0	3/0	3/-1	3/-2	2/-3	0/-5	-0/-6	-0/-7
Valley	5/2	5/2	5/2	5/1	5/0	4/-0	3/-2	2/-4	2/-4
Freezing Level*	900m	800m	800m	700m	600m	500m	300m	200m	100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A severe chill, especially on the tops. Lying snow building up, perhaps some drifting at higher elevation. Blizzards and ice could bring difficult if not dangerous conditions at times, especially on higher eastern fells.

Forecast for Sunday 07 Feb 2021

Weather: A few clear spells overnight but still some snow showers, though most in east. Then a rather cloudy, but bright day, with some sunny spells, but also a scattering of snows showers, especially in east. Feeling very cold.

Maximum wind: Easterly 25 gust 35mph, but 35-40 gust 60mph over higher, more exposed aspects.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60% in west, 40% in east

Visibility: Occasional broken cloud down to 600m, perhaps 450m at times in east. Generally very good or excellent out of cloud, but some sun glare off lying snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 C to plus 1 C, perhaps plus 3 C in the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 6 C
Freezing level: 100m or below

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 5 February. Location: Helvellyn summit at 00:45 Temperature: plus 0.5&dMaximum wind speed 13.4mph Wind chill: minus 4.7°CAverage wind speed: 4.8mph Full report:

We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live.

With a daytime summit temperature just above freezing, there was a slow thaw although this was only really noticeable below 500m and especially below 400m. The main snowline is now around 350m. Depth increases markedly with altitude to reach an unusual 50cm on the summit plateau itself with drifts of over 100cm. The snowpack was soft at all levels and increasingly wet with decreased elevation. Breaking trail through the snowpack is energy sapping and even following footprints was heavy going. Excellent navigation is required as the deep snow obscures landmarks (including cairns), paths are completely covered and low cloud creates virtual, or actual, whiteout conditions. Therefore routes above the snowline are far harder physically and

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progress far slower than normal; factors which must be considered when route planning. The soft and wet snow has also created an extremely unstable snowpack on steep slopes – especially on N and E facing where, above 700m, old hard snow existed prior to the recent snowfall. There are reports of snow sliding down Helvellyn, Catstye Cam and Whiteside. Cornices exist above some N & E facing slopes. Owing to extremely poor visibility it was impossible to either see or inspect them so they could already have collapsed and contributed to the snow that has slid down the slope. If not, they will be extremely unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Upland tarns, such as Red Tarn, are hidden beneath a layer of snow so also need to be avoided; not as simple as it sounds in whiteout conditions. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Goggles are highly recommended in case fresh snow or spindrift is encountered. Although the snowpack on Friday was soft, it would only take a marginal drop in temperature, (currently forecast on Saturday at altitude) for ice and hard snow to readily form creating very different conditions. Therefore, for those venturing above the snowline, regardless of route, an ice axe and crampons are essential. Anyone attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding or Swirral Edge, must be experienced in winter mountaineering including the ability to competently assess the stability, or otherwise, of the snowpack. (The reason why the Assessor avoided Striding Edge, specifically because of its unstable exit, on both Thursday & Friday). Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone.

Issued at: 1325 on Fri 05 Feb 2021

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